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One Hundred Eighteenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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December 13, 2023

The Honorable Phil McGrane
Idaho Secretary of State
700 W. Jefferson St., Room E205
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Secretary McGrane:

I serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections.¹ I am aware of a controversy in a Jerome County local election that was decided by one vote.² Following an examination of the election results, officials discovered that two voters from the same household were incorrectly issued the wrong ballots, permitting them to vote in the wrong district.³

Thankfully, due to new procedures in place in Idaho, the Jerome County Clerk was not only able to find this error, but also to correct it, holding a new election last week.

For Americans to have confidence in our elections, they do not need a zero-mistake system but instead, one where mistakes are identified and corrected. With the proper procedures in place to find and correct election errors, voters will have the confidence necessary to have faith in the election results.

I am encouraged to learn of Idaho's new law that allows a county clerk to request a court examine election discrepancies, determine whether they impacted the outcome of the election, and forge a remedy before the election is certified, rather than wait for a post-election suit. More states should follow Idaho's lead to build voters' confidence in our elections through transparent systems that rectify mistakes as they are identified.

This new law resulted in a special election being held in Jerome County on December 5. As this was the first time this law was used, it was important for voters to understand how it worked and the reasoning behind the decision to hold a new election. By all reported accounts, the election was conducted successfully.

Again, congratulations on these successful efforts to ensure that all lawful ballots are counted according to law.

¹ Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X, Clause 1(k)(12), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

² Joe Parris, *Jerome County election mistake triggers use of Idaho law for the first time*, KTVB7 (Nov. 14, 2023), <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/208/local-jerome-county-election-mistake-triggers-use-of-idaho-law-for-the-first-time/277-fde447c1-2872-4bb0-b432-bfc6e82a2ed1>.

³ *Id.*

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Please direct all correspondence and any questions you might have to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration



Laurel M. Lee
Chair, Subcommittee on Elections
Committee on House Administration



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

BGS/ad